

SETTING THE STAGE FOR RESTORATION



1983-1991

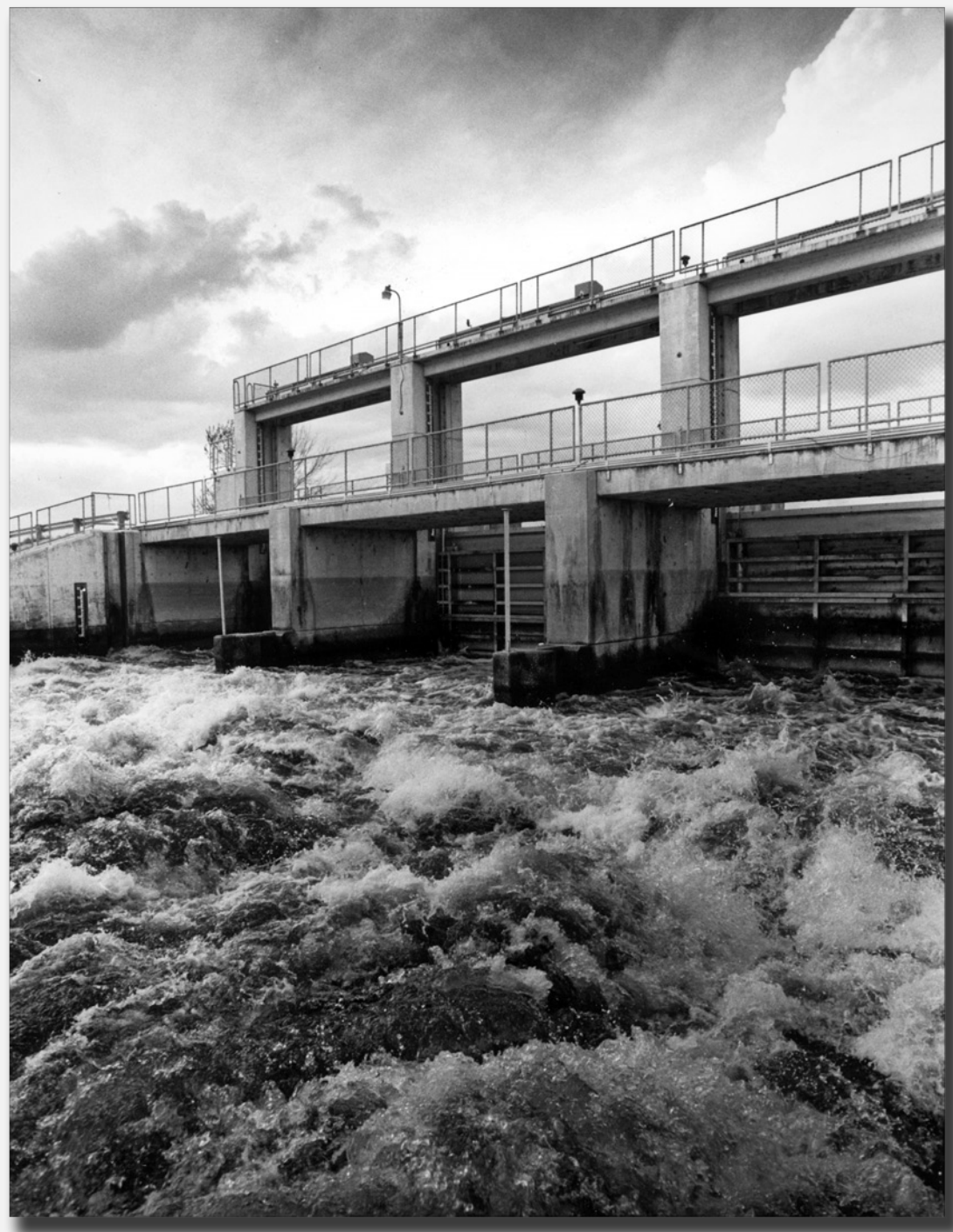
Florida initiates aggressive land acquisition programs to protect and preserve wetlands, wilderness and natural water storage areas for future generations. Lake Okeechobee is a major water body identified for protection and restoration. The expanded role of the South Florida Water Management District — particularly the power to regulate and enforce — is used to encourage growth management policies and to improve water quality. Florida’s population reaches 13 million residents by 1990; more than 5.1 million people are living in South Florida.

1983

Governor Bob Graham launches “Save Our Everglades” program. This holistic program calls for restoration of the Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades. It is the first attempt to address restoration of the entire Everglades ecosystem and is the springboard for the Kissimmee River Restoration project.



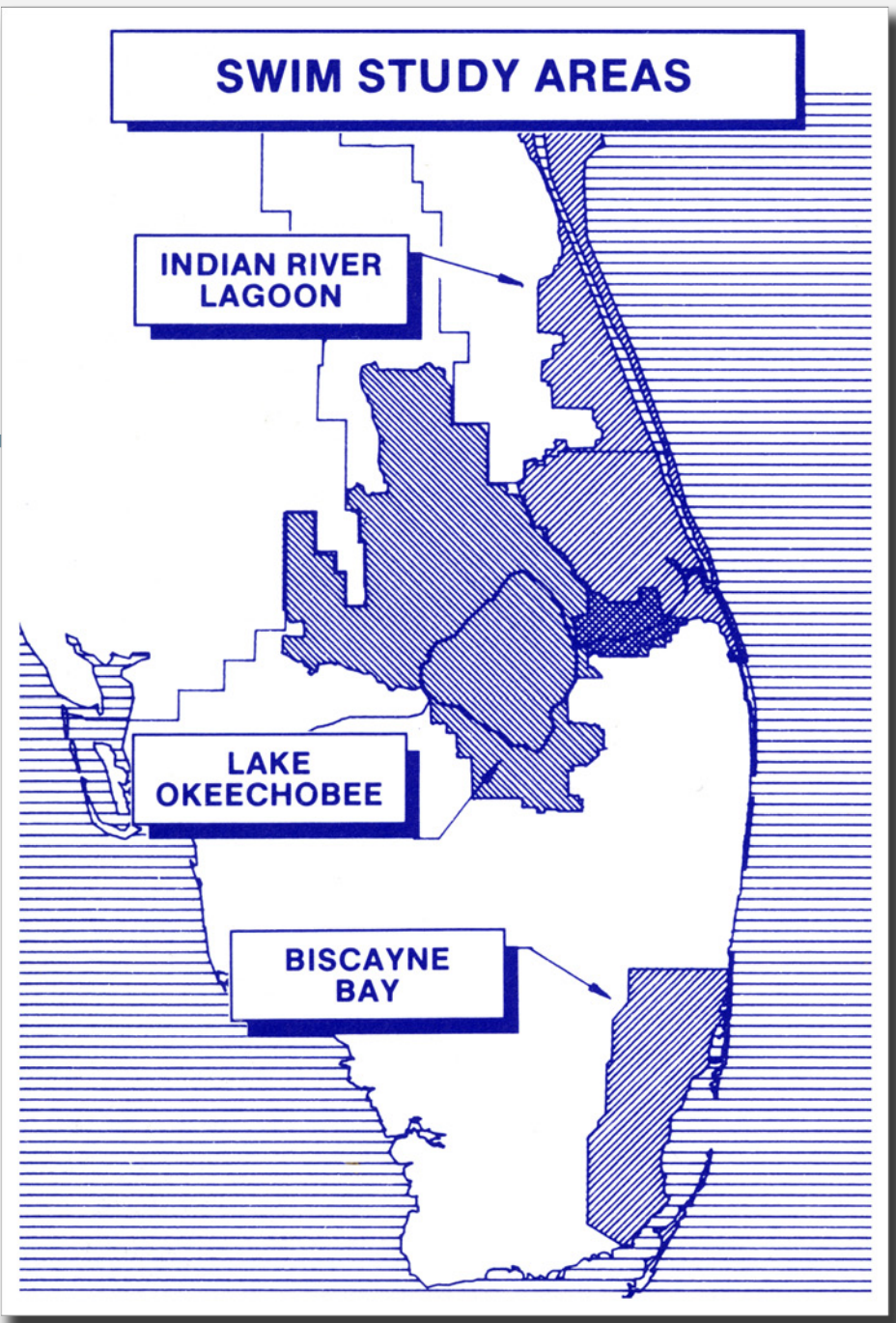
Governor Bob Graham with Marjory Stoneman Douglas, champion of the Everglades



Field tests on the Kissimmee River simulate heavy flood conditions

1985

District completes Kissimmee River Demonstration Project. This initial restoration effort covers 12 miles in the northern half of the river basin. Three weirs are placed in the C-38 canal, and large gaps allow small boats to use the channel. Water is diverted back into the original winding river and floodplain. Later, high-discharge tests prove that restoration efforts can be compatible with flood protection.



Water bodies in South Florida receiving priority for clean-up plans

1988

U.S. State Attorney sues the state of Florida. The basis is to compel the state to halt the flow of phosphorus and other pollutants into the Everglades. It quickly becomes lost in a tangle of countersuits, congressional hearings and state and local investigations. Governor Bob Martinez initiates a demonstration project for rerouting and treatment of runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area on 4,000 acres of state-owned land.



An aerial view of Everglades Nutrient Removal test cells designed to remove phosphorus from water

1986

Large algae bloom spreads over Lake Okeechobee. It stretches 120 square miles at its peak and appears just as the newly formed Lake Okeechobee Technical Advisory Committee publishes a report for water quality improvements. Recommendations include expanded best management practices north of the lake.



Algae bloom on Lake Okeechobee, 1986

1990

Florida Preservation 2000 Act is passed. By increasing the tax on real estate documents, the state’s land acquisition program provides \$300 million per year for 10 years to purchase and conserve ecologically valuable lands.

World-renowned photographer Clyde Butcher’s “Hillsborough River Rapids” is featured on a poster that commemorates Florida Preservation 2000 legislation



DESIGNATION 2000
One Million Acres Conserved
Florida 1998

